

Message Text

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CINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, NATO, OR, XF, XG, XI

SUBJECT: NATO STUDY ON IMPLICATIONS OF REOPENING THE SUEZ CANAL

REF: A. STATE 281230 B. USNATO 6447

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REPORTS ON ALLIES' FIRST ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS TO DEFINE THE SCOPE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF FORTHCOMING ALLIANCE SUEZ CANAL STUDY. END SUMMARY.

1. ON BASIS OF EXCHANGES WHICH TOOK PLACE FORMALLY AT JANUARY 7 POLADS DISCUSSION OF TITLE AND SCOPE OF SUEZ STUDY AND INFORMALLY DURING LAST SEVERAL DAYS IN BILATERAL CONTRACTS AMONG MAJOR ALLIES AND THE NATO/IS, IT IS CLEAR THAT ALLIES' PREFERENCES REGARDING THE FORTHCOMING STUDY REMAIN LARGELY CONSISTENT WITH THEIR ORIGINAL INTERVENTIONS DURING THE NOVEMBER 20 NAC DISCUSSION WHICH FIRST RAISED THIS SUBJECT (REF B), I.E. THE SECRET

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UK REMAINS IN LEAD IN THIS SPECIFIC ATTEMP TO PRODUCE A MEANINGFUL ALLIANCE CONSULTATION CENTERING ON DEVELOPMENTS OUTSIDE THE TREATY AREA; THE U.S. REMAINS OFF STAGE; FRANCE INSISTS SHE INTENDS TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION PROVIDED THE STUDY IS RE-

STRICTED TO STRATEGIC AND MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS WITH THE FOCUS ON IMPLICATIONS OF SUEZ REOPENING FOR THE SOVIET UNION; GREECE CONTINUES TO PUSH FOR SUBSTANTIAL EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS AND ESPECIALLY ON WHAT CANAL REOPENING FOR THE SOVIET UNION; GREECE CONTINUES TO PUSH FOR SUBSTANTIAL EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS AND ESPECIALLY ON WHAT CANAL REOPENING WILL MEAN IN TERMS OF COMMERCIAL SHIPPING; AND OTHER ALLIES REMAIN GENERALLY ENTHUSIASTIC.

2. WHILE CHOOSING TO REMAIN IN BACKGROUND REGARDING THIS INITIATIVE, IN INFORMAL CONTACTS MISSION HAS INDICATED TO THE NATO/IS AND THE BRITISH THAT OPTIMALLY WE WOULD PREFER A STUDY WHICH WOULD COVER A WIDE SPECTRUM OF GEOGRAPHY AND SUBJECT MATTER AND WOULD LOOK AT BOTH MILITARY AND COMMERCIAL IMPLICATIONS. HOWEVER, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH REASONABLE LIMITATIONS ON THE SCOPE OF THIS STUDY IF TO DO SO WOULD HELP ENSURE CONSTRUCTIVE INPUTS ON THE PART OF FRANCE AND OTHER ALLIES, WHO IN THE PAST HAVE DEMONSTRATED AVERSION TO SUCH EXTRA-TREATY AREA CONSULTATIONS.

3. AT JANUARY 7 MEETING, POLADS CHAIRMAN KASTL OUTLINED NATO/IS CONCEPTION OF STUDY WHICH IS WIDE IN GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE (INCLUDING INDIAN OCEAN) BUT FAIRLY NARROW IN SUBJECT MATTER (CONCENTRATING ON WHAT REOPENING WILL MEAN TO SOVIETS). U.S. REP (LEDOGAR) ASKED CHAIRMAN TO CLARIFY EXACTLY WHAT PROCEDURAL FORMAT THE COUNCIL EXPECTED POLADS TO FOLLOW. CHAIRMAN RESPONDED THERE WAS NO QUESTION BUT THAT COMMITTEE'S COMMISSION WAS TO PRODUCE AN ASSESSMENT THAT WOULD BE FORWARDED AS A POLADS DOCUMENT TO THE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION, BUT THE COMMITTEE HAD A GOOD DEAL OF FLEXIBILITY TO DEFINE THE SCOPE OF ITS OWN LABORS. FRENCH REP (BEAUCHATAUD) CHOKED A BIT ON PROSPECT OF AN AGREED ALLIED DOCUMENT BUT EVENTUALLY SWALLOWED IT. U.S. REP ALSO ASKED THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER AT WHICH SECURITY CLASSIFICATION IT WISHED TO WORK. UK AND IMS REPS RESPONDED THAT THE CONTRIBUTIONS THEY CONTEMPLATED WOULD REQUIRE THE NATO/SECRET CLASSIFICATION, AND THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO WORK AT THIS LEVEL.

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4. COMMENT: CONCERNING PARAGRAPH 2 AND 3 OF REF A, IT NOW SEEMS CLEAR THIS SUEZ STUDY WILL BEGIN WITH VETTING OF NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AT PERHAPS TWO OR THREE POLADS MEETINGS BEFORE ASKING NATO/IS TO PRODUCE A FIRST DRAFT. AT JANUARY 14 MEETING HOWEVER, STUDY CHAIRMAN IS LIKELY TO TABLE A SUGGESTED OUTLINE AND TO INVITE DELEGATIONS TO CONTRIBUTE MATERIAL THAT MIGHT FIT INTO HIS FRAMEWORK. THUS, IT DOES NOT APPEAR APPROPRIATE NOW TO RELEASE A SANITIZED VERSION OF SNIE 30-74 TO NATO/IS. RATHER, MISSION REQUESTS WASHINGTON PROVIDE AN INITIAL U.S. CONTRIBUTION THAT DISCUSSES ONLY THE SUBJECTS COVERED UNDER SECTION II OF THIS DOCUMENT, NAMELY THE USSR NAVAL IMPLICATIONS. WHILE SUCH CONTRIBUTION MIGHT DRAW DIRECTLY ON SNIE 30-74, WASHINGTON SHOULD

SANITIZE AS IT DEEMS NECESSARY BEARING IN MIND THAT
THIS MATERIAL WILL BE CONTROLLED AS NATO/SECRET THROUGHOUT.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION WOULD GO
TO ALL PARTICIPANTS ACCORDING TO STANDARD PRACTICES WHICH
OBTAIN WHEN DEALING WITH NATO/SECRET.

5. TO BRIDGE THE FORMAT GAP BETWEEN THE FRENCH
WHO WISH TO RESTRICT ATTENTION TO STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS IN TERMS
OF SOVIET NAVAL AND MERCHANT MARINE FLEXIBILITY, AND GREEKS WHO
WISH ALSO TO ADDRESS ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS FOR ALLIES INCLUDING
THEIR MERCHANT SHIPPING, CHAIRMAN KASTL'S STRATEGY IS TO WORK
WITH AN OUTLINE SATISFACTORY TO THE FRENCH BUT TO INCLUDE WITHIN
THIS FRAMEWORK MATERIAL SATISFACTORY TO THE GREEKS. THUS, WITHOUT
HAVING A SEPARATE SECTION ON "WORLD SHIPPING," STUDY WOULD APPROACH
THE ALLIED MERCHANT SHIPPING ISSUES THROUGH CONSIDERATION
OF WHAT IMPORTANT WORLD SHIPPING LINES ARE OR WOULD BECOME SUBJECT
TO INFLUENCE OF SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE. THEREFORE, MISSION
RECOMMENDS SEPARATE U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TAILORED TO SHAPE AND
CONTENT OF STUDY AS IT DEVELOPS. LATER U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS MIGHT MOVE
TOWARD DIRECT CONSIDERATION OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS
OF SUEZ REOPENING FOR THE ALLIES.

6. ALTHOUGH SUBSTANTIVE WORK ON THIS STUDY WILL BEGIN IN
POLADS ON JANUARY 14, TACTICALLY, MISSION WOULD NOT WISH TO
TABLE FIRST U.S. CONTRIBUTION IMMEDIATELY. ACCORDINGLY, MISSION
REQUESTS FIRST U.S. CONTRIBUTION IN TIME FOR JANUARY 21 POLADS.
HOWEVER, WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION IN TIME FOR JANUARY 14
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POLADS THAT DEPARTMENT APPROVES MISSION'S APPROACH AND EXPECTS
TO FURNISH U.S. INPUTS IN DUE COURSE.
BRUCE

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